



3301 Echo Drive
 North Platte, NE 69101
 rectory-office@seas-np.org
 www.seas-np.org

ST. ELIZABETH

ANN SETON

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Fr. Rand Langhorst
 Parish Coordinator: Ashley
 Perlinger (Ministries, website,
 sign, choir, miscellaneous)
 Mass Times: Saturday 5:00pm,
 Sunday 10:00am, Weekdays & Holy
 Days as posted in bulletin

Confession: Saturdays 4:00pm-
 4:30pm, Sundays 9:00am-9:30am
 Offered any time by appointment.
 Half hour before Friday Masses
 for 15 minutes

Baptism
 Contact priest to set up
 appointment.

Matrimony
 Contact priest first before date is
 set and at least 6 months prior.
 Classes and retreat required.

Anointing of the Sick
 Contact priest or parish office.

Education: Family Home Study or
 Catholic School ; Adult Entry into
 Catholic Faith (O.C.I.A), contact
 office or pastor for more
 information.

*All bulletin news due at noon the
 Wednesday before the Sunday it is
 to appear. Email rectory-
 office@seas-np.org.*

December 22, 2024: 4th Sunday of Advent

<i>Mass Intentions</i>		
Monday 12/23	8:00 am	McKenna Ketter
Tuesday Christmas Vigil 12/24	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Marinn Niesen Missa Pro Populo
Wednesday Christmas Day 12/25	10:00 am	Poor Souls
Thursday 12/26	No Mass	
Friday 12/27	No Mass	
Saturday 12/28	5:00 pm	Missa Pro populo
Sunday 12/29	10:00 am	Scott Rieker

LITURGICAL MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS December 28-29, 2024 (The Holy Family of Jesus)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector/Reader	Volunteer Needed	John Bode
Acolyte	Ed Rieker	Conrad Buhrman
Server	Luke Miller Nathan Miller	Will Vapenik Weston Hammond
Music	Greg Vandenberg	Matt & Ashley Perlinger
Gifts	Volunteer – Ask Ushers	Volunteer – Ask Ushers
Ushers	David Gross	

Stewardship: December 15, 2024: Adult \$3958.00, Immaculate Conception
 \$50, Christmas Flowers \$50.00, Thanksgiving \$20.00, Contemplative Sisters \$10.00

Christmas Flowers were provided in memory of the following: All SEAS Daughters of Charity, All SEAS Knights of Columbus, Lloyd & Bernice Jones, Reiny & Martha Burbach, Jim & Barb Waldschmidt, Randy Burbach, Dave Hoedel, Margaret Mary Baxa, Gene Johnston, Della Johnston, Frank & Florena Schneweis, Fred & Linda Bode, Ray & Margaret Ruskamp, Al Robinson, Robert & Ruby Langhorst, Don Exner, Virginia Otto, Lynn Weskamp, Robert & Anita Nisley, Christopher Beckius, John & Madeline Baker, Nancy Vandenberg, Maureen McClendon, Mike & Kim Paul, Robert & Pauline Vandenberg

A reminder there will be no adoration on Wednesday December 25 and Wednesday January 1. Please note also that church doors will be locked on both dates after their respective Masses.

MARIAN CAMP 2025: June 24-27 at Camp Kateri Tekakwitha in McCool Junction. Counselors: girls entering grades 11th and up. Campers: girls entering grades 6th-9th. Registration fills up fast! Financial Aid Applications through December 23rd. Registration at www.mariansisters.org/marian-camp.html

Starting Jan. 8 (Wednesdays), the Emmaus Institute is teaching a five-week course on our Blessed Mother, titled The Mother of the Word: A Biblical Study of Mary. Discover how the Old and New Testaments reveal the person and mission of Mary. Register at www.EmmausInstitute.net.

Marriage Encounter Weekends: Learn how to love your spouse by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Feb. 14-16, 2025, Lincoln, NE; Aug. 8-10, 2025, Littleton, CO. For questions, feel free to contact: Brenda & Gary Granger: 402-370-5839. For more info about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, visit www.wwme.org

All Faith's Choir North Platte performance has changed. It is now 10 am on December 22nd at Latter Day Saints Church.

All Parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend our Parish celebration on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Feast Day, Saturday, January 4. Immediately after the 5:00pm Mass, we will have a potluck meal in the Parish Hall with fried chicken, drinks, and table service provided by the Daughters of Charity. The remainder of the meal will be pot

luck, with those attending being asking to bring a side dish, dessert, or both. This is a time to deepen our ties as a spiritual family and for fellowship. Please mark your calendars to attend.

Upcoming dates and times for your calendars:

December 31: Holy Day of Obligation Vigil, Solemnity of Mary, Vigil Mass, 5:00pm

January 1: Holy Day of Obligation, Solemnity of Mary, Mass 10:00am

S.T.A.G.E. to Present "The Custodian of Art" S.T.A.G.E. Student Theatre announces its holiday production, "The Custodian of Art," to be held at 7:00 pm January 2-4 and at 2:00 pm on January 5 in Lincoln at St. Teresa's Church Kaczmarek Hall. This original musical features student actors ages 8-15. Set in an art gallery full of famous paintings, patrons realize the purpose of art as it comes to life through clever depictions and silly antics. Following the show, guests will enjoy an art exhibit by local artists and S.T.A.G.E. students. Reserved seating can be purchased at www.stage4kids.com/purchase-tickets.

FOR THOSE 70 ½ OR OLDER: A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can come directly from an IRA or from a traditional or Roth IRA. A QCD may satisfy the required minimum distribution, and up to \$105,000 of QCDs may be excluded annually from an individual's taxable income. Consider talking to your financial advisor about donating your IRA distributions to a charity, such as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

Mark your calendars: Spirit Catholic Radio Three Days of Christmas Music will be heard on Thursday, December 26, Friday, December 27, and Monday, December 30. Listen at 90.1 FM North Platte.

Marriage Encounter: We are reaching out to couples across the Diocese, making preparations for Valentines Weekend. "Finding a heart-to-heart-exchange" Feb. 14-16 at Lincoln, North American Martyrs Church Call right away to reserve a place. Contact Gary & Brenda 402-370-5839

“There’s no question that much of what the world does to celebrate Christmas resembles very little of the holiday’s etymological roots. Christmas, of course, comes from combining Christ and Mass — a throwback to when the Mass was the central part of any celebration of Jesus’ birth. But it’s not hard to enumerate the ways in which something is missing from Christmas today, the ways we need to “keep Christ in Christmas,” as the popular slogan goes. But the real issue isn’t so much about saying Merry Christmas instead of Happy Holidays. Keeping Christ in Christmas, or in any other day for that matter, is really the challenge of a Eucharistic lifestyle. Our words are meaningless and empty when they are not upheld by our personal conformity in all we think, say and do. The task of Eucharistic living, then, is a Christmas task par excellence. Christ came to dwell among us, to be one with us in Bethlehem. And he continues to do so, albeit mysteriously, in our lives each day — if we let him in. Each day is like Christmas when Christ is born anew in our heart, mind and will when we take on a Eucharistic pattern to our life. Making present in our lives constitutive elements of the celebration of the Eucharist can help us. We always express our sorrow for sin at the start of each Mass, begging for God’s forgiveness. Each day should include some examination of conscience to help us understand our weaknesses and give us an idea of how to seek God’s help to be more like Christ.” Excerpt from ‘Keeping Christ in Christmas’ by Michael Heinlein.

ORIGIN OF "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" An Underground Catechism: You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of

their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else. ... The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..." The other symbols mean the following: 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace. 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed --Fr. Hal Stockert, Fishnet

KC sponsored 5th Sunday Rosary will be December 29 at 6 pm. All parishioners are invited.

Start off the New Year by joining us for prayer & fellowship at the next Catholic Daughters Council 1549 meeting, SATURDAY January 4, 10am at St Pat's Spiritual Life Center. DO NOT THROW OUT your Christmas cards! Please let Catholic Daughters repurpose them into a kindness project for the next holiday season. Place the CARD FRONTS ONLY in the collection boxes at St Patricks North Platte available in the gathering area until the end of January. Thank you!

While a man had gone out driving to do some Christmas shopping, his wife had been watching TV when she heard the announcer say, "be very careful and watch driving on I-80 today, there is a motorist driving the wrong way"! His wife got hold of him on the cell phone to warn him, and his reply was: "You tell me, there are hundreds of them here".

The Incarnation: "By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being" (Vatican II, GS 22). This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16), but also the incomparable value of every human person. The Church, faithfully contemplating the mystery of the Redemption, acknowledges this value with ever new wonder. She feels called to proclaim to the people of all times this "Gospel", the source of invincible hope and true joy for every period of history. The Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel" (Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n.2).

All donations must be received before December 31 to be included on the year end statement for tax purposes.

All married couples, Catholic or not, are welcome to a Love & Life program at St. Cecilia School in Hastings January 11-12. Learn more at www.loveandlifeprogramsusa.org or loveandlifeprograms.nebraska@gmail.com, or contact Matthew and Marie Phillips at 402-705-8015.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. This feast developed at the beginning of the 19th century in Canada and then spread to the entire Church in 1920. It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the "true model of life" from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort...The experience of the family of Nazareth cannot but make us think of the many families today who are also "in movement" – certainly of those families forced to leave their homes and their own land in search of peace, serenity and work, but

also of those families who live with the apprehension and anxiety of not making ends meet, of unstable marital situations, the fear of illness... In the family of Nazareth, our families, as well as the human family, can learn to allow ourselves to be guided by God's powerful hand. If it is true on the one hand that in many situations people feel like "refugees", "strangers in their own homes", or in the heart of a dear one, it is also true that every obstacle, every difficulty can be transformed into an opportunity to "depart", an opportunity for a "journey toward conversion" which alone can lead to serenity, peace, stability. Today, the Holy Spirit still continues to guide "all peoples", "all couples", "all parents". But we need to listen to the Spirit who speaks in us. If the Son of God came to live with us as a child, and only the eyes of faith can perceive His presence, how important it is to remind ourselves that everyday things are never of little importance, that daily occurrences are never useless or purely coincidental. The eyes of faith are necessary to grasp the hidden and the beyond. Everything becomes a "place" to encounter or reject God's presence. Everything is a sign for those who believe. To live the gospel of the family is not easy today. Those who want to defend life from the moment of conception are criticized or attacked. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-embracing. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the "gospel of the family" does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tensions, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. Families who are wounded and marked by weakness, failure, difficulty...can rise again if they learn how to draw from the font of the Gospel. There, they can rediscover new possibilities of starting over.—from Vatican News

Prayer Requests: Bob Snider (ill) Linda Maly (ill) Ermalinda Torres (ill) Sharon Beckius (ill) David Zalewski (ill) +Kathy McBroom +Val Dworak +Matthew Roehrs +Lorraine Jirovsky

MERRY CHRISTMAS!